

REMARKS

The above-identified application is United States application serial number 10/767,528 filed on January 27, 2004. Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Claims 1-22 are rejected. Applicants respectfully point out that the action fails to describe the disposition of originally-filed claims 23-24.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-18, 20 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Young et al (U.S. Patent No. 6, 018,456) in view of Grouell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5, 912,799). Applicants have amended the claims. The amended independent claims 1, 9, 17, and 24 distinguish over the cited references at least because Young in view of Grouell do not disclose "a backplane . . . comprising a plurality of slots configured to interchangeably receive a plurality of modules." The housing disclosed in Young does not have slots that interchangeably receive different types of function modules but rather includes a lower frontal section with slots that can only receive disk drives of various form factors, an upper frontal section that apparently has no slots but rather can hold various types of devices presumably by internal cable connections, a lower rear section with slots that can only receive power supply modules, and an upper rear section with no slots but rather can hold a cooling module that attaches by an internal cable connection. Similarly, Grouell does not disclose "slots configured to interchangeably receive a plurality of modules" but rather shows an enclosure with slots configured to receive only disk drives. All claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-18, 20 and 22 are allowable at least on this basis.

With respect to claims 3, 12 and 18, Young et al. does not disclose "at least one cooling module plug inserted into a backplane slot" but rather shows a cooling module that connects via a cable.

With respect to claims 5, 10 and 15, Young et al. does not disclose "power modules and function modules having a substantially common height and depth and being an integral number of slots wide" but rather discloses disk drives that can be mounted in one size slot on

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the front section of a computer and power modules of a different height and/or depth that mount in the back of a computer.


Claims 6, 14, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Young et al in view of Grouell et al as applied above, and further in view of Douston III et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,392,872). Claims 6, 14, and 21 are allowable at least on the basis of allowability of independent claims 1, 9, and 17 as amended. Furthermore, with respect to claims 6, 14 and 21, Young et al. does not disclose "power modules and function modules having a substantially common height and depth and being an integral number of slots wide" but rather discloses disk drives that can be mounted in one size slot on the front section of a computer and power modules of a different height and/or depth that mount in the back of a computer.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Young et al in view of Grouell et al as applied above, and further in view of Larson et al. (U.S. Patent application 2004/025256 A1). Claim 19 is allowable at least on the basis of allowability of independent claim 17 as amended.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe Claims 1-24 are in form for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. No new matter has been added. In the event it would facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (949) 251-0250.

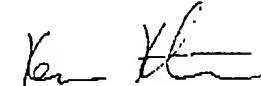
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted in the USPTO. Central Number at (571) 273-8300 on the date shown below:


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December 6, 2005
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Respectfully submitted,



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